

XIth CHRONICLE
(July 1, 1977 — June 30, 1978)
Section II — Chronicle of Elections

CHINA

Dates of Elections: November 1977 to February 1978

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the members of the Fifth National People's Congress.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of the People's Republic of China, the National People's Congress, comprises 3,500 deputies indirectly elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

Deputies are chosen by the people's congresses of the country's 21 provinces, five autonomous regions, three municipalities directly under the Central Government, and the People's Liberation Army, each college of delegates being proportionate to the number of electors in the constituency. Congress members must be citizens at least 18 years of age.

Candidates are chosen by the Communist Party of China. Their names are then communicated to the electors.

Deputies are subject to supervision by the units which elect them. These electoral units have the power to replace at any time the deputies they elect, as prescribed by law.

General Political Considerations and Conduct of the Elections

Following the adoption of the 1975 Constitution* the Fifth Congress was chosen in late 1977-early 1978. This newly-elected body held its first session from February 25 to March 5, 1978, at which, among other things, it adopted a new Constitution**.

Under the Chinese system of Government, the National People's Congress is the highest organ of State power under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, which selects the Congress candidates.

* See *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections IX* (1974-1975), p. 10.

** See section *Parliamentary Developments*, p. 19.